



## STEM OPT EXTENSION: STEP 2 INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONLINE FILING WITH USCIS

**While you are in an approved period of STEM OPT, you must report all changes to your employment, address or immigration status within 10 days of occurrence.** Failure to report in a timely manner may result in the termination of your SEVIS record. Learn more about maintaining your status on STEM OPT and your reporting responsibility at [global.arizona.edu/international-students/f-1-student-employment](http://global.arizona.edu/international-students/f-1-student-employment).

- ▶ **You must file the I-765 while in the United States.**
- ▶ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) must receive your application:
  - No later than the day before your OPT periods ends
  - No earlier than 90 days before your OPT period ends
  - Within 60 days of when your STEM OPT I-20 is issued by ISS
- ▶ To apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD card) electronically, create a USCIS online account at <https://myaccount.uscis.gov/>. **You will need to scan all of the supporting evidence below so it can be uploaded to the online application.**
- ☐ **File the Application for Employment Authorization (I-765)**
  - Review the USCIS I-765 Instructions ([uscis.gov/i-765](https://uscis.gov/i-765)).
  - Select the basis of eligibility: (C)(3)(C) STEM extension
- ☐ **2x2 Photo**
  - You must upload a recent U.S. style passport photograph of yourself. If possible, request a digital copy of passport photograph.
  - The instructions in the online I-765 application have additional information on the photo requirements.
- ☐ **Form I-94**
  - If you entered by air, access your electronic form at <https://www.cbp.gov/i94>.
  - If you entered the U.S. by land, you may have received a paper I-94 stapled in your passport or an electronic form.
- ☐ **Government-Issued Identity Document**
  - Copy of your last EAD (front and back)
- ☐ **STEM OPT Recommendation I-20**
  - Print, sign and date the scanned copy you receive by email to send to USCIS
- ☐ **Proof of STEM Degree**
  - Copy of diploma and transcript showing STEM degree
- ☐ **\$410 Application Fee**



- Can be paid through your bank account (ACH), debit, or credit card
- **If your STEM eligibility is based on a degree earned before the degree for your current I-20, institutional accreditation is required.**
  - Upload evidence that the institution you earned the STEM degree from is accredited by the U.S. Department of Education.
- ▶ After submission, you will receive a receipt notice in your USCIS online account.
- ▶ Your application for STEM OPT extension does not have to be approved before your EAD expires. Based on a timely filed application, your OPT employment authorization will be automatically extended up to 180 days while your application is pending with USCIS. Your I-20 from ISS recommending the STEM OPT extension and the I-797 receipt notice from USCIS showing that your application was received prior to the expiration of your EAD are your documentation of your extended OPT employment authorization while your application is pending.